

Music Alumni Newsletter – Fall 2015

A Message from the Editors

E-Mail: MusicAlumni@txstate.edu

Web: <http://www.MusicAlumni.net>

We understand “alumni” broadly: whether you received your degree from (Southwest) Texas State as a music major, whether you studied here for one semester, or whether you were a non-music major but participated in band, choir, or any other ensemble – you are a Music Alumnus!

We invite everyone to submit their updates and stories to us for inclusion in the newsletter. For easy communication, please join our [Facebook Group](#) or our [LinkedIn Group](#),

or send us an e-mail so we can add you to our e-mail distribution list.

We also invite our alumni to stay informed about new and exciting events in the School of Music by reading its newsletter *Somos Músicos* at somosmusicos.wp.txstate.edu.

This Fall 2015 issue of our Music Alumni Newsletter contains several pictures taken at the 2015 Homecoming with its Music Alumni Band performance.

The Editors

Ms. Sunnie Oh (M.M. in piano performance, '02),

Dr. Nico Schüler

and Prof. Charles Hurt



Alumni Band Rehearsal, September 19, 2015

E-Mail & Internet Links:

Texas State Music Alumni E-Mail: MusicAlumni@txstate.edu • Texas State's School of Music: <http://www.music.txstate.edu/>
Texas State Music Alumni Website: <http://www.MusicAlumni.net> • Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/46231268458>

A Message from the Director of the School of Music

Dear Music Alumni,

I had the pleasure this summer of meeting many of you and hearing you sing as part of the Alumni Choir. Likewise, it was a thrill to see that more than 100 of you participated in another Bobcat Alumni Marching Band reunion and performance this fall. And I look forward to seeing many of you at another Texas State alumni reunion reception at TMEA. This year we will be back in our favorite room at the Marriott River Center on February 12 (9:30 PM).

As a music alumnus of Texas State, you have much reason for pride – your school is thriving. In turn, we continue to be proud of all that you are accomplishing to give the gift of music to your community. Be sure to let us know what you're up to, as we are eager to brag about you in the *Somos Músicos* news blog (<http://somosmusicos.wp.txstate.edu/>) and the next Alumni Newsletter.



All the best,

TC

Thomas Clark, DMA
Director and Professor
TC24@txstate.edu

Saxophone Alumni Database Information & News

Gabrielle Anderson (M.M. in saxophone performance, '15) Studio Saxophone Instructor in the San Marcos and New Braunfels ISD.

Patrick Atkins (B.M. in music education, '06) has been assistant director of bands at Steele High School in Schertz, Texas, since 2006.

Nick Conte (M.M. in music education, '14) is Assistant Band Director at Paredes Middle School in Austin and Principal Saxophonist with Cinematic Symphony.

Gene Centeno (B.M. in jazz studies, '07) toured extensively with Grupo Fantasma. Gene is currently a freelance musician and band director at Hernandez Middle School in Round Rock, Texas. He married wife, Ashley, in 2010.

Adam Conerly (B.M. in jazz studies, '06) has performed with the Navy Band Mid-South stationed in Millington, Tennessee from May 2013 to September 2014, the U.S. Naval Forces Band Europe stationed in Naples, Italy from 2101-2013, and is currently stationed with the Navy Band Southeast in Jacksonville, FL. He married April (Dawson) in 2010.

Adolfo Cortez (B.M. in music education, '09) is currently teaching band at PSJA ISD.

Luis De La Cruz (B.M. in music education, '10) is currently assistant band director at McCollum High School in San Antonio.

Crystal Alexander Duckett (B.M. in music education, '06) received the master of music degree in 2009 and doctor of musical arts degree in saxophone from the University of Kansas in 2012. She and her husband, Chris, are currently living in Round Rock where she works as a freelance musician and private studio teacher.

Clayton Duncan (B.M. in jazz studies, '06) is currently a freelance musician in Houston, Texas.

James Duty (B.M. in music education / jazz emphasis, '13) is currently a freelance musician in North Texas.

Robert Eaton (B.M. in music education, '11) taught band at the San Marcos Baptist Academy from 2003 to 2010. He currently is director of bands for the Columbus Independent School District and lives in Katy, Texas.

Rogelio Escobar (B.M. in jazz studies, '08) is currently Assistant Director of Bands at Whittier Academy in San Antonio.

Jared Garrison (B.M. in music education, '11) is currently assistant director of bands at Hightower High School in Missouri City, Texas.

Gilbert Garza (B.M. in music education, '14) is currently pursuing an M.M. degree in Performance at UT Austin.

Ed Gleason (B.M. in music education, '05) is currently general music teacher / band director at Scroggins Elementary in Houston ISD. He married Angelle (Marcaurele) in 2007 and has two daughters, Amelia and Aurelia.

Eden Gonzalez (B.M. in music education, '09) received the master of music degree in saxophone performance from Texas State University in 2011. He married his wife, Arianna, the same year. Eden is Assistant Band Director in Roma, Texas at Roma High School and Middle School.

Eric Gonzalez (B.M. in jazz studies, '10) currently a freelance saxophonist in San Antonio, TX.

Richard Hall (M.M. in composition, '03) currently Composition Faculty at Texas State University.

Ricky Ray Hernandez (B.M. in music education, '15) is saxophonist with the band, Jumbofunk.

Andrew Irwin (B.M. in jazz studies, '09) is currently a musician with the United States Navy Band stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. He married his wife, Donna (Nall), in 2011.

Marty Lenard (B.M. in music education, '10) received the master of music degree in music education from Texas State University in 2012. He married wife, Halya, in 2009

and is currently director of bands at Hal Peterson Middle School in Kerrville, Texas.

Arthur Martinez (B.M. in music education, '02). is currently teaching elementary music for the Austin ISD.

Carlos Martinez (B.M. in music education, '09) is currently the music teacher at Camarena Elementary in Palmview, Texas.

Gerald Martinez (B.M. in music education, '14) is currently pursuing an MM Degree in Jazz Performance at DePaul University.

Joe Martinez (B.M. in music education, '03) is teaching band with La Pryor ISD. He received the master of music in education from Sam Houston State University in 2010.

Misty Martinez (Grenier) (B.M. in music education, '07) teaches elementary music at Bluebonnet Elementary in Lockhart, Texas, and lives with her husband David in San Marcos.

Josue Mora (B.M. in music education, '14) is currently pursuing an MM Degree in Woodwinds at Indiana University.

Miguel Olivares (B.M. in jazz studies, '11) worked as a professional musician on the Holland America Cruise Line, traveling to Alaska, Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand, and other Southern Pacific islands. Currently freelancing in New York City.

Hector Olvera (B.M. in music education, '07) was stationed with the Navy Band Northeast in Newport, Rhode Island, which is attached to the Naval War College. He played alto saxophone and clarinet in the Ceremonial Band and baritone saxophone in the Showband. He was discharged from the Navy in 2013 and is training to be a police officer in Austin.

Ramon Parker (B.M. in music education, '07) received the master of music degree in conducting from Northwestern State University (Natchitoches, Louisiana) in 2012. He has taught band in Texas at Brazosport High School, Tatum High School, and Rogers High School. He is currently a band director in Elgin High School.

Juan Jose Rangel Jr. (B.M. in jazz studies, '12) is currently working and living in Bastrop, Texas.

Ty Reagan (B.M. in music education, '08) is currently a group fitness instructor with Synergy Fitness Boot Camp in Austin, Texas.

Francisco J. Rios (B.M. in music education, '08) Assistant Band Director / Woodwind Instructor at Juarez-Lincoln High School, La Joya ISD.

Sam Robles (M.M. in saxophone performance, '09) is currently a freelance musician and studio instructor for Alamo Heights High School, Burbank High School, Connell Middle School, and Connally Middle School in San Antonio, Texas.

Amanda Marino Stevenson (B.M. in music education, '07) is currently assistant director of bands at Taft High School in San Antonio, Texas. She married husband Steve in 2010.

Hector Telles (B.M. in music education, '09) is currently teaching band at McNair Junior High School in Atascosa, Texas. He married his wife, Alejandra, in 2012.

Marc Telles (B.M. in music education, '03) taught band in San Antonio, Texas, until 2006. He currently is Director of Bands at Connally High School, Pflugerville, TX.

Lawrence Varela-Halbert (B.M. in music education, '15). Assistant Band Director at S.C. Lee Junior High School, Copperas Cove, TX.

Shelley Vekasy (B.A. in music, '14) is in Hattiesburg, Mississippi where she getting a Ph.D. in polymer science and engineering at the University of Southern Mississippi. She also races mountain bikes as a professional athlete in the MORCS circuit. Future plans are to pursue an MFA in Music Theory or Saxophone Performance.

Joshua Weisbrod-Torres (B.M. in music education, '14) Former elementary music teacher for the Killeen ISD. Currently pursuing an M.M. degree in Music Education at Texas State University.

Amy Torres (Zuniga) (B.M. in music education, '10) received the master of music degree in Latin American music performance from Texas State University in 2012. Amy married Mike Torres and recently had their first child.



Jett Walker ('13) and Scott Duncan ('12)

Other Alumni Information & News

Heather Ainsworth-Dobbins (B.M. in bassoon performance, '04) received her M.M. degree from the University of Utah in 2006. She recently relocated to Lexington, VA with her husband, Chris, and her daughter, Ginny. Heather is a music professor at Southern Virginia University, where she teaches Aural Skills, Music Fundamentals, and double reed lessons. She is also an active freelance bassoonist in the Shenandoah Valley and the Lynchburg area.

Bethany Cowan (B.M. in music education, '15) wrote: "After graduating in May 2015, I became the Associate Director of Choirs at Harker Heights High School in Harker Heights, Texas. My head director Tommy Haygood and I team-teach in each choir. I currently have the most leadership in JV Women. I also have the opportunity to assist in middle schools 4 times a week during my conference period. It is my pleasure to regularly teach with 2015 classmate and Texas State alumna Ashley Haight, as she is the director at one of my feeder middle schools. I also regularly see and work with Texas State alums Jason Gallardo and Garrett Dibble. I'm having a great time so far."

Hayden Dooley (B.A. in music, '13) is currently residing in San Marcos, Texas, teaching middle school math at Miller Middle School, SMCISD.

Eduardo Garcia moved back to Lima, Peru, after finishing his degree at Texas State. He is teaching at the Conservatory of Lima and the Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas (UPC). He is teaching harmony and Aural Skill classes.

Victor Martinez (M.M. in trumpet performance, '10) wrote: "Hello, my name is Victor Martinez and I was a 2010 Graduate from the Texas State university School of Music. I studied and received my Master's in performance under the direction of Dr. Keith Winking. As of now, after my graduation, I worked for South Texas College as full time brass instructor in which I helped build its brass studio and a new brass ensemble. With the birth of my son, I moved back to my hometown and now started working with Texas Southmost College as a Music professor. My colleague and me are working together to help build and start a music program in this new college."

Kelsey McFatridge (Martin) wrote: "I attended Texas State school of music from 2009-2013 earning my bachelor's of music in clarinet. I was in Kappa Kappa Psi and in the wind symphony during this time. Since graduation, I have gotten married and now work in the ER in San Antonio. I applied for Physician Assistant school to get my master's

in medicine; I was accepted this year to matriculate in 2016! My plan is to practice emergency medicine."

After a 20 year career in aviation, **Joe Meyer** (M.M. in performance, '87), has retired in New Braunfels where he plays tunes in local venues, raises AmStaff Dogs and makes custom jewelry. Contact him at: localjoe@att.net or 830-708-7740.

Emma Nichols (B.A. in music, '10) wrote: "I received my Master's in Family and Child Studies (MA) from Texas State in 2012, then took my teacher's certification exam and began teaching special education at Simon Middle School in Kyle, Texas. I taught 6th, 7th and 8th grade ELA for two years ... everybody got out alive. This year I am finally teaching Life Skills! I have 6th, 7th and 8th graders in my class. We work on using iPads to communicate, cooking, and daily living skills. Every routine we have involves a song, so I do a lot of singing during my days. We have music therapy once a week, which is my students' favorite time of the week. Two of my students are in band – both are a part of the percussion section."

Manuel San Luis (B.M.E. in music education, '83) wrote: "I'm a 1983 graduate of the music school at the back-then Southwest Texas State University. I am completing my 32nd year of teaching as a band director, and I am in my 21st year at Cedar Park Middle School in Leander ISD. Recently, the Cedar Park Middle School Band program was selected by TBA (Texas Bandmasters Association) as the 2015 'Exemplary Middle School Band' for the state of Texas. The band program has been to the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago twice, and was awarded the John Philip Sousa Foundation Sudler Cup – an international award for 'a junior high band program of highest quality'. Cedar Park Middle School feeds Cedar Park High School, home of the current 5A State Marching Contest champion, and also TMEA 5A State Honor Band."

Jeremy Roe (B.M. in music education, '02) wrote: "This is my 12th year (can you believe it) in the valley. I'm the first assistant at PSJA North HS, where I teach the JV band and saxophones. I've been writing drills for various bands, and of course I am very busy with marching season. I have a three-year old daughter named Emily, who is big into dance, Dora and chocolate. I married Elma Falcon, a French Horn player who was at SWT while I was there. I still ride a motorcycle, I also play bassoon / contra with the Utpa (now UTRGV) wind ensemble a few times a year. That is very enjoyable."



Craig Walton, '93
Nela Gallardo, '95.
Cindy Martinez, '95.
Amado Martinez, '98.
Gabe Gallardo, '95

A note from Rachael Janek (B.M. in music education, '09) to Professor Daris Hale



Since Graduation in 2009 I have been active teaching around the central Texas region. I got my first “real” teaching gig in Lockhart ISD at the Junior High and stayed there for 4 years. I have spent the last 3 years in Hays CISD at Chapa Middle School. My real passion is teaching beginner band students and middle school ensembles. I would love to eventually go to Grad School and end up teaching methods classes at the collegiate level one day. I love playing the different instruments and watching young musicians grow. I have the best job in the world - I get paid to play instruments all day long. Two years ago, I bought a house in Buda, TX with my fiancée, Cassandra Saenz. We have one fur-daughter, a 7 year old yellow lab named Samantha “Sammie-Weasel-Dog”.

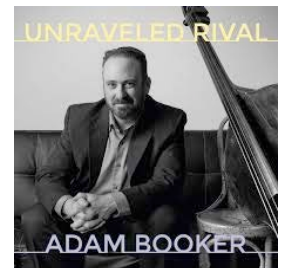
You are such an inspiration to so many of us. I honestly don't think you realize how much of an impact you have made on us all. I am so grateful for having such a passionate and knowledgeable teacher like you. I miss playing bassoon and practicing, can you believe that? I actually wish I could have an 8AM lesson again – HA! Please let me know when there will be another Tx State Double Reed Day so I can bring a van full of my students. I was so happy to see your name pop into my inbox!! I'm so proud to be one of your students.

Congratulations . . .



. . . to Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia's Gamma Phi Chapter at Texas State University on winning President Lichtenberg's Sinfonia Song Challenge! To see the performance, visit <https://www.sinfonia.org/2015/10/29/sinfonia-song-challenge-1/>

. . . to Adam Booker (B.M. in jazz studies, '07; M.M. in composition, '09) on his CD *Unraveled Rival*



Gsus Music Therapy Services in San Marcos, Texas

Chris Lippke, BM, MT-BC, MMT, is a proud graduate of Texas State's School of Music (Class of '08). Sharolyn (Ferrer) Lippke, BM, MT-BC, MMT, is also a proud graduate of the Texas State School of Music (Class of '10). Chris and Sharolyn both also graduated from the Music Therapy Program at Shenandoah University in Virginia (Class of '14). They started, own, and run Gsus Music Therapy Services & Center, LLC. Gsus Music Therapy Services & Center, LLC is a privately owned and operated music therapy practice and music studio in the Hills of San Marcos. They wrote:

“We proudly provide exceptional music therapy services for adults, children, elderly, and adolescents across a wide range of therapeutic needs. We work with individuals from in the womb and birth until hospice and death. Gsus Music Therapy Services also provides educational lectures and seminars on music therapy, interventions within music therapy and the field of practice.

Music therapy is the clinical intervention and therapeutic application of music and musical elements to address non-musical needs within an individual. At Gsus we also offer and teach applied



music lessons for individuals who desire to learn new, or improve existing, music skills; and we offer adaptive music lessons for individuals with special needs. We also offer music therapy-based performing ensembles opportunities through the nonprofit branch of our practice, Gsus Harmonies Nonprofit, for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Based in San Marcos, our treatment team of Board Certified Music Therapists are proud Texas State - School of Music Alumni and are passionate about providing therapeutic experiences, lessons, and music interactions that are engaging, comforting, familiar, and welcoming for you or your loved one. Gsus Music Therapy Services & Center, LLC provides services in-home, in-facility, or at our center.

Twice a month, Gsus Music Therapy Services & Center, LLC also offer community drum circles for stress relief. Come on out and join us, meet others in the community, and share your music. You can connect with us by following our website at www.gsusmusictherapy.com or you can Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gsusmusictherapy or www.facebook.com/Gsus-Harmonies-Nonprofit-822942967725385. If you would like to learn more about music therapy, you can email any questions to gsus.musictherapy@gmail.com. We don't mind talking about what we do.”

From the Houston Business Journal and the Houston Chronicle



The following announcement about Marlene Jacobs (B.M. in performance, '87) was featured in the Houston Business Journal and the Houston Chronicle:

Native Houstonian Marlene Jacobs has joined the Galleria office of Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty as a Realtor Associate. Marlene brings a decidedly diverse, international background to her career as a Realtor having recently relocated from Melbourne, Australia.

Confident and knowledgeable, Marlene developed strong interpersonal skills as a hospital administrator during her years in Australia. She learned to work well with people from diverse backgrounds and continues to use those skills to advantage in an international city such as Houston.

A serious musician and singer throughout her life, Marlene graduated from the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Texas State University and a Master of Music degree from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, both in vocal performance. Marlene sings in the Houston Masterworks Chorus, her church choir, and assists with the church's children's choir as well.

Texas State University Band Alumni Commission Project

After the successful performance of the Texas State Wind Symphony in the 2015 TMEA Concert, a group of alumni got together to see what we could do for the University. With many ideas and alumni discussing different options, we are ready to move forward.

The purpose of this project is to provide the sole funding of a commission for a new, large-scale composition for wind band to be premiered by the Texas State University Wind Symphony in 2017. The total funding goal of the project is \$20,000.

Dr. Beatty selected the composer Ryan Chase. Ryan has presented the idea of writing a major symphony based on the book "Dune." Here's what he has to say about the project:

"The magic of Herbert's "Dune" is that a great deal of metaphysics and supernatural experiences are described just vaguely enough to leave much to the reader's imagination. The music in the expansive symphony, while having the same programmatic in-

tent as a tone poem that generally tells the story, will especially focus on sonically describing these more intangible phenomena as well as the plot."

For more information about the project like our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/TxStCommissionProject. By "liking" the page you will find out more information about how you can donate to the project. That information will be posted soon.

All donations made to this project are tax deductible as part of giving to the University. We hope you are excited about the chance of providing such a major work to our wonderful Wind Symphony and of providing the current students such a special experience.

For more information about Ryan Chase visit www.ryanmchase.com. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Marty Lenard at martin.lenard@kervilleisd.net or 830-370-1757.



Alumni Band Rehearsal, September 19, 2015

Congratulations, Recent Music Education Graduates!

Teaching Positions for 2015-2016

Vocal music education graduates:

Ruben Morgan – Zachry Middle School, NISD, San Antonio, TX
Jason Gallardo – Shoemaker High School, Killeen, TX
Ashley Branson – Westwood High School, Austin, TX
Bethany Cowan – Harker Heights High School, Killeen, TX
Samara Neto – Wiley Middle School, Leander, TX
Ashley Haight – Eastern Hills Middle Schools, Killeen, TX
Garrett Dibble – Killeen, TX
Brittany Garza – Lockhart, ISD, Lockhart, TX
Samuel Parrott – Seguin, ISD, Seguin, TX
Richard Shehulski – Hays, ISD, Kyle, T

Instrumental music education graduates:

Randallyn Kelso- Asst. Band Director, Beckendorff Jr. High, Katy ISD, Katy, Texas
Lawrence Varela-Halbert- Asst. Band Director, S.C. Lee Jr. High School, Copperas Cove ISD, Copperas Cove, Texas
Haley Dougherty Kibodeaux– Music Teacher at Navarro Elementary School in Lockhart ISD, Lockhart, Texas
Lani Gil – Orchestra Director, Boerne Middle Schools, Boerne ISD, Boerne, Texas
Elizabeth O’Connell – Asst. Band Director, Stafford MS & HS, Stafford ISD, Stafford, Texas
William Cordova – Music Teacher, Havard Elementary School, Galena Park ISD, Houston, Texas
Arminda Velasquez – Asst. Band Director, Cedar Ridge HS, Round Rock ISD, Round Rock, Texas
Hector Bermea – Mariachi Director, Los Fresnos HS, Los Fresnos ISD, Los Fresnos, Texas
Arabella Stachura – Music Teacher, Hommel Elementary, Everman ISD, Everman, Texas
Riaz Mohammed – Assistant Band Director, Campbell Middle School, Cypress Fairbanks ISD, Houston, Texas.
David Ortiz – Assistant Band Director, Scobee Middle School, Southwest ISD, San Antonio, Texas
Sol Rupp – Assistant Band Director, Southside High School, Southside ISD, San Antonio, Texas
Joseph Menditto - Music Teacher, Hawthorne Academy and Washington Elementary, San Antonio ISD, San Antonio, Texas
Nikki Singer- Music Teacher, D.P. Morris Elementary School, Mansfield ISD, Arlington, Texas
Courtney Edwards – Band Director, Wilder Intermediate School in Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD, Schertz, Texas
Cesar Gonzalez – Asst. Band Director, MacArthur HS, North East ISD, San Antonio, Texas
Brad Miller- Asst. Band Director, Lamar Jr. High, Lamar Consolidated ISD, Rosenberg, Texas
Tyler McClendon – Asst. Band Director, Canton MS/HS, Canton, Texas
Cesar Deleon – Music Teacher, Walnut Springs Elementary, Dripping Springs ISD, Dripping Springs, Texas
Austin Baker – Music Teacher, Del Valle Elementary, Del Valle ISD, Del Valle, Texas
Inez Rodriguez – Asst. Band Director, Goodnight MS, San Marcos CISD, San Marcos, Texas
Chris Diaz - George I. Sanchez Elementary School in Austin ISD, Austin, Texas
Gerald Martinez, Graduate School, DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois
Matt Hurtado, Graduate School, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
Nancy Lott - Asst. Band Director, McNair Middle School, Southwest ISD, Atascosa, Texas
Drew Saenz – Asst. Band Director, Westlake High School, Eanes ISD, Austin, Texas



Thomas Pena ('01)



TMEA Annual Alumni Reception

Texas State University's School of Music will hosts its annual reception at the TMEA Convention on Friday, February 12, 2016, from 9:30pm to 11:30pm at the Rivercenter Marriott in San Antonio.



Tom Waggoner ('87)



Archie Lee Hatten IV ('04)

Want to Help?

Would you like to help current and future students at Texas State University? You can

- Help us revising our curricula
- Become a mentor
- Establish an endowment
- Contribute to a scholarship fund
- Etc.

For more information, contact MusicAlumni@txstate.edu

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